

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 6, 2008. Claims 1 to 5 and 11 to 22 and 25 to 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 16, 21, 22, 25 and 27 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to for an informality. The term “printer” having been changed to -- printer controller -- in accordance with the Examiner’s requirement, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 5 and 16 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments have addressed the Examiner’s concerns regarding the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 11 to 13, 15, 18 and 20 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765 (Mori). Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Taniguchi and Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,438,433 (Reifman). Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Taniguchi and Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,294 (Arledge). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 11, and 22.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printer controller for controlling printing of print data. The printer controller includes storage

adapted to store print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data; an authentication unit adapted to authenticate a user based on authentication information manually input by a user; a control unit adapted to enable the printer controller to print, based on user instruction, the stored print data corresponding to the authentication information if the user is authenticated by the authentication unit; and a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time.

Therefore, an apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 includes the features of:

- (1) an authentication unit adapted to authenticate a user based on authentication information manually input by a user, and
- (2) a control unit adapted to enable said printer controller to print, based on a user instruction, the stored print data corresponding to the authentication information once the user is authenticated by said authentication unit, and
- (3) a deletion unit adapted to delete the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time.

In a system in accordance with Claim 1, it is possible to delete the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user but not set based on the specific period of time, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage. In particular, such a system can effectively delete the print data by causing the printer controller to collectively delete the print data that the specific period of time has passed since the print data were stored in the storage. Moreover, it is possible for the user to cause the printer

controller to collectively delete the print data at a time that the printer controller is not being heavily used.

In contrast to the present invention, Taniguchi discloses that a print job is stored in a memory of a computer, and print data is transmitted to a printer if execution of the print job is instructed from the printer. More specifically, Taniguchi discloses that a user sets a job effective time for the print job stored in the memory of the computer, and then deletes from the memory the print job when the set job effective time has passed. However, Taniguchi merely discloses that the print job is deleted at the time when the job effective time designated by the user has passed. That is, Taniguchi does not at all disclose or suggest deleting the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time. Consequently, in Taniguchi, if plural print data are stored in a memory and different job effective times are set respectively to the plural print data, the process of deleting the print data has to be performed for every time that is set by the respective job effective times. Further, a user cannot designate a time of collectively deleting the stored print data.

Moreover, Mori discloses that print data to be transmitted to a printer has been stored in a storage device of a computer, and then the print data is actually transmitted to the printer if a transmission request is sent from the printer. More specifically, in Mori, the computer accepts, from a user, setting of a delete time for the print data stored in the storage device, and then automatically deletes the stored print data at the delete time. However, Mori does not at all disclose or suggest deleting the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the

predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time. That is, in Mori, an amount of elapsed time is preset by the user, and then the delete time is automatically calculated based on the preset amount of elapsed time. Consequently, in Mori, if plural print data are stored in the storage device at different timings, the process of deleting the print data has to be performed every time that the elapsed time passes from the respective storage locations of the respective print data in the storage device.

In addition, Arledge, Jr. does not disclose or suggest a specific condition for deleting print data at a certain set time. Accordingly, Arledge, Jr. does not disclose or suggest deleting the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time.

Furthermore, Reifman also does not disclose or suggest a specific condition for deleting print data at a certain set time. Accordingly, Reifman cannot possibly disclose or suggest a deleting the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited references, namely Taniguchi, Mori, Arledge Jr. and Reifman, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 1. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest deleting the print data from the storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in the storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time. In light of these deficiencies of Taniguchi, Mori, Arledge

Jr. and Reifman, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 22 are directed to a method and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 22 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 16 and 21.

Claim 16 is directed to a data processing method for providing a print service using an information processing apparatus using storage for storing print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data, and a printer. The method comprises a transmission of authentication information manually input by a user to print the print data, from the printer to the information processing apparatus, authenticating a user based on the transmitted authentication information at the information processing apparatus, transmitting the print data corresponding to the input authentication information from the information processing apparatus to the printer, enabling the printer to print, based on user instruction, the transmitted print data if the user is authenticated and deleting the print data from said storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above in regard to Claims 1, 11 and 22 applies as well to Claim 16. Namely, the cited references of Taniguchi, Mori, Arledge Jr. and Reifman, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 16. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest deleting the print data from

said storage at a predetermined time, manually set by a user, if a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time. In light of these deficiencies of Taniguchi, Mori, Arledge Jr. and Reifman, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 16 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 21 is directed to a computer readable storage medium substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 21 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 25 and 27.

Claim 25 is directed to a printer controller for controlling printing of print data. The printer controller comprises a storage adapted to store print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data, an authentication unit adapted to authenticate a user based on authentication information manually input by a user, a control unit adapted to enable said printer controller to print, based on user instruction, the stored print data corresponding to the authentication information if the user is authenticated by said authentication unit, a searching unit adapted to search the print data, a specific period of time has passed since the print data was stored in said storage and a deletion unit adapted to perform a deletion process for deleting the print data searched by said searching unit, the deletion process being performed at a predetermined time manually set by a user, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above in regard to Claims 1, 11 and 22 applies as well to Claim 25. Namely, the cited references of Taniguchi, Mori, Arledge Jr. and

Reifman, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 25. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest deleting the print data searched by said searching unit, the deletion process being performed at a predetermined time manually set by a user, the predetermined time being not set based on the specific period of time. In light of these deficiencies of Taniguchi, Mori, Arledge Jr. and Reifman, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 25 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 27 is directed to a computer readable storage medium substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 25. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 27 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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